

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend lines 23-28 on page 1 with the following:

Now therefore, according to one of its aspects, the invention is characterized according to the characterizing part of Claim 1.

~~_____~~ The invention also relates to a multi-device system that contains user speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech, wherein the presence of a plural and functionally separate ones of said speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, driving the echo canceling facilities to combine their forces by one or more thereof for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

~~so operated as claimed in Claim 8. The invention also relates to a speech-enhanced device for use in a system according to the invention, as claimed in Claim 15. Further advantageous aspects of the invention are recited in dependent Claims.~~

Kindly amend lines 5-14 on page 2 with the following:

Figure 1[[,]] illustrates a general speech-enhanced device for use with the present invention;

Figure 2[[,]] illustrates a multi-device speech-enhanced system with distributed automatic speech recognition (ASR) and distributed automatic echo canceling (AEC);

Figure 3[[, ditto]] illustrates a multi-device speech-enhanced system with distributed ASR and distributed AEC in a star configuration;

Figure 4[[, ditto]] illustrates a multi-device speech-enhanced system with distributed ASR and centralized AEC;

Figure 5[[, ditto]] illustrates a multi-device speech-enhanced system with centralized ASR and centralized AEC;

Figure 6[[, ditto]] illustrates a multi-device speech-enhanced system with centralized ASR and distributed AEC; and

Figure 7[[, ditto]] illustrates a multi-device speech-enhanced system with distributed ASR and distributed AEC in an advanced setup.

Kindly amend the Abstract with the following:

A multi-device audio-video system contains speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities. In particular, plural and functionally separate such speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities are present. Now, the echo canceling facilities combine their forces for by one or more thereof canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

~~Fig-6~~